United Nations

Report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

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Supplement No. 20 (A/48/20)

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CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	INTRODUCTION	1 - 15	1
II.	RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS	16 - 134	4
	A. Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes	16 - 20	4
	B. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the work of its thirtieth session	21 - 89	5
	Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space	21 - 89	5
	1. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the work of its thirtieth session	22	5
	2. Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space	23 - 48	5
	3. Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellites, including, inter alia, applications for developing countries	49 - 54	11
	4. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space	55 - 61	11
	5. Space transportation systems	62 - 66	12
	6. Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit; examination of its utilization and applications, including, inter alia, in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to space communications developments, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries	67 - 70	13
	7. Matters relating to life sciences, including space medicine; progress in national and international space activities related to the Earth environment, in particular progress in the geosphere-biosphere (global change) programme; matters relating to planetary exploration; matters relating to astronomy	71 - 77	13

	Paragraphs	Page
8. Themes fixed for special attention at the 1993 and 1994 sessions of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee	78 - 82	14
9. Space and Earth Environment	83 - 89	15
C. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on the work of its thirty-second session	90 - 113	15
1. Question of early review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space	91 - 96	16
2. Matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and to the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union	97 - 107	16
3. Consideration of the legal aspects related to the application of the principle that the exploration and utilization of outer space should be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all States, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries	108 - 113	17
D. Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status	114 - 120	18
E. Other matters	121 - 128	19
1. Reports to the Committee	121 - 122	19
2. Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space	123 - 124	19
3. Membership and observer status	125 - 126	19
4. Relocation of the secretariat	127 - 128	20
F. Future work	129 - 132	20
G. Schedule of work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies	133	21
H. Tribute	134	21
Annex. Santiago Declaration		22

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space held its thirty-sixth session at United Nations Headquarters from 7 to 18 June 1993. The officers of the Committee were as follows:

Chairman: Mr. Peter Hohenfellner (Austria)

Vice-Chairman: Mr. Aurel Dragos Munteanu (Romania)

Rapporteur: Mr. Edgard Telles Ribeiro (Brazil)

The verbatim records of the Committee's meetings are contained in documents A/AC.105/PV.379-393.

Meetings of subsidiary bodies

2. The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee held its thirtieth session at United Nations Headquarters from 16 to 26 February 1993 under the chairmanship of Mr. John H. Carver (Australia). The report of the Subcommittee was issued as document A/AC.105/543.

3. The Legal Subcommittee held its thirty-second session at United Nations Headquarters from 22 March to 8 April 1993 under the chairmanship of Mr. Václav Mikulka (Czech Republic). The report of the Subcommittee was issued as document A/AC.105/544. The summary records of the Subcommittee's meetings are contained in documents A/AC.105/C.2/SR.562-571.

Adoption of the agenda

4. At its opening meeting, the Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. (a) Adoption of the agenda.

   (b) Election of a Rapporteur.

2. Statement by the Chairman.

3. General exchange of views.

4. Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.

5. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the work of its thirtieth session.

6. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on the work of its thirty-second session.

7. Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

8. Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status.

9. Other matters.

10. Report of the Committee to the General Assembly.

Membership and attendance

5. In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 1721 E (XVI) of 20 December 1961, 3182 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973, 32/196 B of 20 December 1977 and 35/16 of 3 November 1980, with decision 45/315 of 11 December 1990, and with the decision taken at the 95th meeting of the forty-seventh General Assembly (A/47/PV.95), the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was composed of the following Member States: Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Lebanon, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam and Yugoslavia.

6. At its 379th, 380th, 382nd, 384th and 385th meetings, the Committee decided to invite, at their request, the representatives of Azerbaijan, Bolivia, Cuba, the Holy See, Kazakhstan, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Nicaragua, Peru, Portugal, Senegal, Slovakia and Turkey, to attend the session of the Committee and to address it, as appropriate, on the understanding that it would be without prejudice to further requests of that nature and that it would not involve any decision of the Committee concerning status.

7. Representatives of the United Nations Department of Development Support and Management Services, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) also attended the session.

8. Representatives of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) of the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU), the European Space Agency (ESA), the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (INTELSAT), the International Astronautical Federation (IAF), the International Law Association (ILA) and the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) also attended the session.

9. A list of representatives attending the session is contained in document A/AC.105/XXXVI/INF/1.

Proceedings

10. Having been informed that the Committee's Rapporteur, Mr. Edmundo Sussumu Fujita (Brazil), had taken up other professional engagements, the Committee, at its 379th meeting, elected Mr. Edgard Telles Ribeiro (Brazil) as its new Rapporteur.

11. At the 379th meeting, the Chairman of the Committee, in his opening statement, summarized the work of the Committee's subsidiary bodies and outlined the work before the Committee. He stressed the need to increase international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space and to ensure that the benefits of such cooperation were shared by all countries and all peoples (see A/AC.105/PV.379).

12. At the 383rd meeting, the Chief of the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat made a statement reviewing the work of the Office during the previous year and the documentation before the Committee.

13. At its 379th to 383rd meetings, from 7 to 9 June 1993, the Committee held a general exchange of views, in the course of which statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, Senegal, Sweden, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States (see A/AC.105/PV.379-383).

14. The representatives of COSPAR, ESA, IAF, ILA, INTELSAT and ISPRS, as well as the Expert on Space Applications of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, also made statements (see A/AC.105/PV.379, 380 and 384).

15. After considering the various items before it, the Committee, at its 393rd meeting, on 18 June 1993, adopted its report to the General Assembly containing the recommendations and decisions set out below.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS

A. Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes (agenda item 4)

16. In accordance with paragraph 30 of General Assembly resolution 47/67 of 14 December 1992, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space continued its consideration, as a matter of priority, of ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.

17. The Committee was of the view that the request of the General Assembly, in its resolution 47/67, to the Committee to consider, as a matter of priority, ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes and to report thereon, showed the concern felt by the international community and the need to promote international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, taking into account the needs of the developing countries. The Committee, through its work in the scientific, technical and legal fields, had an important role to play in ensuring that outer space was maintained for peaceful purposes. It was the firm belief of the members of the Committee that developments that would strengthen the role of the Committee in maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes should continue. The Committee had responsibilities relating to the strengthening of the international basis for the peaceful exploration and uses of outer space, which could cover, among other matters, further development of international space law, including, as appropriate, the preparation of international agreements governing various practical peaceful applications of space science and technology. Strengthening international cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space also implied the need for the Committee itself to improve, whenever necessary, the methods and forms of its work.

18. The Committee agreed that a good way to broaden and deepen international cooperation in outer space was through international and regional programmes undertaken as part of international and regional endeavours such as International Space Year, the Second Space Conference of the Americas and the Asia-Pacific Workshop on Multilateral Cooperation in Space Technology and Applications.

19. The Committee recognized the contribution of the Second Space Conference of the Americas, held at Santiago, from 26 to 30 April 1993 and expressed the view that it constituted an important instrument in the promotion of international cooperation in outer space. In this regard, the Government of Chile provided, for the information of the Committee, the Santiago Declaration, which is contained in the annex to the present report. The Committee also recognized the contribution of the Asia-Pacific Workshop on Multilateral Cooperation in Space Technology and Applications, held at Beijing, from 30 November to 5 December 1992, and expressed the view that it also constituted an important instrument in the promotion of international cooperation in outer space. In this regard, the Government of China provided, for the information of the Committee, the recommendations of the Workshop, which are contained in document A/AC.105/L.201.

20. While recognizing the competence of the Conference on Disarmament on questions relating to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, some delegations expressed the view that the Committee should complement and contribute to the work being done in the Conference and the First Committee, considering that the peaceful and non-peaceful uses of outer space were inseparably linked and that the scope of this priority agenda item included such subjects as transparency and confidence-building measures. Those delegations

therefore expressed the view that the Committee should be kept informed of the progress made by the Conference on such questions and that working contacts should be established between the two bodies. Other delegations expressed the view that the Committee had been created 35 years ago to address international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, with a clear separation between its role and that of other United Nations forums dealing with disarmament, and that contacts between the Committee and disarmament bodies would not be useful. Those delegations expressed the view that the Committee should contribute to maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes by strengthening the scientific and technical content of its work, by promoting broader and deeper international cooperation by all countries in outer space activities and by revitalizing its work and that of its subcommittees.

B. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the work of its thirtieth session

Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (agenda items 5 and 7)

21. The Committee considered jointly agenda items 5 and 7, entitled "Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the work of its thirtieth session" and "Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space", respectively.

1. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the work of its thirtieth session

22. The Committee took note with appreciation of the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the work of its thirtieth session (A/AC.105/543), covering the results of its deliberations on the items assigned to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/67.

2. Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

(a) Working Group of the Whole

23. The Committee noted with satisfaction that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/67, the Subcommittee had given priority consideration to the item entitled "Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space" and had re-established the Working Group of the Whole to evaluate the implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE 82), 1/ under the chairmanship of Mr. Muhammad Nasim Shah (Pakistan).

24. The Committee noted with satisfaction that a number of reports related to the recommendations of UNISPACE 82 had been prepared in accordance with the recommendations of the Working Group of the Whole at its sixth session in 1992, as endorsed by the General Assembly in paragraph 11 of its resolution 47/67. The Committee also noted that further studies and reports would be prepared in accordance with the recommendations of the Working Group of the Whole at its seventh session, held in 1993.

25. The Committee noted that the Working Group of the Whole had reviewed the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE 82, had concluded that many of the recommendations were still not fully implemented and had made a number of recommendations concerning the further implementation of the recommendations of the Conference. The Committee endorsed the recommendations of the Working Group of the Whole, as contained in its report (A/AC.105/543, annex II). The Committee noted the view of the Working Group that the budgetary allocations for the Programme on Space Applications for implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE 82 had been meagre and inadequate in past years and that the Working Group had expressed its deep concern that the situation remained the same for the current year as well.

26. The Committee noted that the Special Political Committee of the General Assembly had acceded to the request of the Committee at its thirty-fifth session that the General Assembly make an adequate allocation for the Programme on Space Applications in order to fully implement the recommendations of UNISPACE 82, and that the Chairman of the Special Political Committee had conveyed that decision in a letter to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly (A/C.5/47/51). On the recommendation of the Fifth Committee, the General Assembly, in resolution 47/219 of 23 December 1992, took note of the letter from the Chairman of the Special Political Committee. The Committee expressed its hopes that those recommendations and actions would be reflected in an adequate budget allocation for the Programme on Space Applications in the 1994-1995 programme budget.

27. The Committee recommended that the Working Group of the Whole should be reconvened during the next session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to continue its work.

28. The Committee, while expressing its appreciation to all Governments that had made or had expressed their intention of making contributions for the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE 82, took note of the disappointment expressed by the developing countries at the lack of financial resources to implement those recommendations fully.

(b) United Nations Programme on Space Applications

29. At the outset of the Committee's deliberations on this item, the United Nations Expert on Space Applications of the Office for Outer Space Affairs reviewed the activities carried out and planned under the Programme on Space Applications during the period 1992-1994. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Expert on Space Applications for the effective manner in which he had implemented the Programme within the limited funds at his disposal.

30. The Committee continued to express its concern over the limited financial resources available for carrying out the Programme and appealed to Member States to support the Programme through voluntary contributions. The Committee felt that the limited resources of the United Nations should be focused on the highest priority activities and noted that the Programme on Space Applications was the priority activity of the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

31. The Committee took note of the Programme on Space Applications, as set out in the report of the Subcommittee. The Committee was pleased to note that further progress was being made in the implementation of the Programme activities planned for 1993.

(i) United Nations workshops, training courses and seminars

32. As regards the United Nations workshops, training courses and seminars for 1993, the Committee expressed its appreciation to:

(a) The European Space Agency, for co-sponsoring the United Nations/ESA Training Course for African Francophone Countries on Applications of ERS-1 for Natural Resources, Renewable Energy and the Environment (19-30 April 1993);

(b) The Government of Sweden, for co-sponsoring the Third United Nations/Sweden Training Course on Remote Sensing Education for Educators (3 May-4 June 1993);

(c) The Government of Greece, for co-sponsoring the United Nations Workshop on Space Communications for Development (10-12 May 1993);

(d) The Government of Indonesia, for co-sponsoring the United Nations Regional Conference on Space Science and Technology (17-21 May 1993);

(e) The Government of Mexico, as well as ESA, for co-sponsoring the United Nations/Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO)/ESA Workshop on Applications of Space Technology to Combat Natural Disasters (27 September-1 October 1993);

(f) The Government of Senegal, as well as ESA, for co-sponsoring the United Nations Regional Conference on Africa's Environmental and Natural Resources Information and Management Needs (October 1993);

(g) The Government of Germany and the Carl Duisberg Society, Berlin, as well as ESA, for co-sponsoring the Fifth United Nations Training Course on Remote Sensing Applications to Geological Sciences, to be held in Nepal (October 1993);

(h) The Government of Austria, IAF, ESA and the Commission of the European Communities, for co-sponsoring the United Nations/IAF/ESA Symposium on Organizing Space Activities in Developing Countries: Resources and Mechanisms (16-22 October 1993);

(i) The Government of Nigeria, as well as ESA, for co-sponsoring the United Nations Workshop on Basic Space Science (18-22 October 1993).

33. The Committee also noted that a United Nations Workshop on the Use of Space Techniques for Monitoring and Control of the Desert Environment was planned for November 1993.

34. The Committee endorsed the programme of United Nations workshops, training courses and seminars proposed for 1994 as outlined by the United Nations Expert on Space Applications of the Office for Outer Space Affairs in his report (see A/AC.105/533, para. 43 (a)-(j)), and recommended those activities for approval by the General Assembly. The Committee noted the plans for the following activities:

(a) A United Nations International Workshop on Spin-off Benefits of Space Technology;

(b) The Fourth United Nations/Sweden International Training Course on Remote Sensing Education for Educators, to be hosted and co-sponsored by the Government of Sweden;

(c) A United Nations International Training Course on Communications for Development;

(d) A United Nations International Workshop on Remote Sensing Information Systems;

(e) A United Nations International Workshop on Microwave Remote Sensing Applications, to be hosted and co-sponsored by the Government of China;

(f) A United Nations/Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO) Regional Workshop on Space Technology to Combat Natural Disasters, for the benefit of Member States in the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) region;

(g) A United Nations Training Course on Remote Sensing Applications to Geological Sciences for the benefit of Member States in the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) region;

(h) A United Nations International Workshop on Basic Space Science in Development Programmes, for the benefit of member States of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA);

(i) A United Nations International Workshop on the Development and Design of Small Experimental Payloads, to be hosted and co-sponsored by the Government of Spain;

(j) A United Nations/IAF Symposium on Space Technology in Developing Countries.

35. The Committee also noted with appreciation the financial contributions of $20,000 from the Government of Austria, $30,000 from the Government of China, $7,000 from the Government of Greece, $15,000 from the Government of Pakistan, and $50,000 from ESA in support of the 1992 activities of the Programme on Space Applications, and the contributions of $15,000 from the Government of Pakistan and $85,000 from ESA in support of the 1993 activities. The Committee took note of other Member States which were planning to make contributions. The Committee noted with appreciation the provision of experts, as instructors and speakers in the activities of the Programme on Space Applications, by the host countries and other countries. The Committee also noted the financial and other assistance provided by ESA, FAO, the International Maritime Satellite Organization (INMARSAT), ITU and the Regional Centre for Services in Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing (RCSSMRS).

(ii) Long-range fellowships for in-depth training

36. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Governments of Austria, Brazil and China, as well as to ESA, for offering fellowships through the United Nations in 1992-1993 and to the Governments of Brazil and China as well as to ESA, for renewing their offers of fellowships for 1993-1994. The Committee also noted with appreciation the offer of fellowships for 1993-1994 by the Government of Greece.

(iii) Technical advisory services

37. The Committee noted that the Programme had provided or would provide the following technical advisory services: to the Government of Ecuador in studying the feasibility of establishing a multinational enterprise to operate the remote-sensing ground receiving station at Cotopaxi, Ecuador; to the Government

of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the organization of a National Seminar on Remote Sensing of the Environment and Space Applications; to the Government of Nigeria for the organization of a National Seminar on Space Science and Technology; to the Government of Chile for the organization of the Second Space Conference of the Americas; and to Governments in the Asia-Pacific region in the Asia-Pacific Workshop on Multilateral Cooperation in Space Technology and Applications and in the establishment of the Asia-Pacific Satellite Communications Conference.

38. The Committee also noted that the Programme was continuing its collaboration with ESA in a follow-up of the United Nations/ESA International Space Year activity on the use of remote-sensing data being provided by ESA to four African countries covered by the receiving stations at Maspalomas, Canary Islands, Spain, and Fucino, Italy. The Committee further noted that the Programme was collaborating with ESA in reviewing the training needs of the participating African institutions.

(iv) Centres for space science and technology education

39. The Committee noted with satisfaction that a number of Member States in the ECA, ECLAC, ESCAP and ESCWA regions had expressed interest in hosting the proposed regional centres for space science and technology education, based on existing national or regional educational institutions in developing countries, to promote the development of indigenous capabilities. The Committee welcomed the report on the matter entitled "Centres for Space Science and Technology Education" (A/AC.105/534) and urged Member States to consider providing voluntary contributions to support that effort.

40. The Committee noted that an evaluation mission to Latin America and the Caribbean was undertaken last year with the participation of technical experts from Canada and Spain. The Committee also noted the statement of the Expert on Space Applications concerning the arrangements for the region which were under discussion between the countries concerned and the United Nations.

41. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Governments of France and Germany for having sent experts to participate in an evaluation mission to potential host countries for a centre in Africa. The Committee noted that further evaluation missions to other regions were being planned.

(v) Promotion of greater cooperation in space science and technology

42. Regarding the promotion of greater cooperation in space science and technology, the Committee noted with satisfaction that the United Nations Programme on Space Applications was co-sponsoring the following activities:

(a) A symposium entitled "Organizing Space Activities in Developing Countries: Resources and Mechanisms", co-sponsored by IAF, ESA, the Commission of the European Communities, the Government of Austria and the City of Graz, to be held at Graz, Austria, immediately prior to the IAF Congress;

(b) Symposia and workshops in conjunction with the COSPAR and ISPRS meetings to be held in 1994 and 1996, respectively;

(c) The VIth Symposium on Remote Sensing and Geographic Information System Applications to the Environment organized by Sociedad de Especialistas Latinoamericanos en Percepción Remota (SELPER), Cartagena de Indias, Colombia (3-8 October 1993).

(c) International space information service

43. With regard to the international space information service, the Committee noted with satisfaction the publication of the fourth volume of "Seminars of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications" (A/AC.105/532), containing selected papers from the seminars, workshops and training courses of the 1992 activities of the Programme on Space Applications; "Highlights in Space" (A/AC.105/522), based on annual reports prepared by COSPAR and IAF and submitted to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee; and an updated edition of "Space Activities of the United Nations and International Organizations" (A/AC.105/521).

(d) Coordination of space activities within the United Nations system and inter-agency cooperation

44. With regard to coordination of outer space activities within the United Nations system and inter-agency cooperation, the Committee noted the request of the General Assembly, contained in its resolution 47/67, to all organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to cooperate in the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE 82.

45. The Committee further noted with appreciation that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee had continued to stress the necessity of ensuring continuous and effective consultations and coordination in the field of outer space activities among organizations within the United Nations system. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the fourteenth Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities had been held in 1992 (see ACC/1992/28) and that a report on the coordination of outer space activities within the United Nations system had been submitted to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (A/AC.105/524). The Committee also noted with appreciation that the fifteenth Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities would be held in October 1993 at ITU headquarters at Geneva.

46. The Committee noted with appreciation the participation in all stages of its work and in that of its Subcommittee by representatives of United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and other international organizations. The Committee found the reports submitted by those bodies helpful in enabling it and its subsidiary bodies to fulfil their role as a focal point for international cooperation in space, especially with respect to the practical applications of space science and technology in developing countries.

(e) Regional and interregional cooperation mechanisms

47. Regarding regional and interregional cooperation mechanisms, the Committee noted with satisfaction that, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 47/67, paragraph 15, and the recommendations of UNISPACE 82, the Secretariat had continued to seek to strengthen regional mechanisms of cooperation by organizing regional workshops and training courses as part of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and by providing technical assistance to regional activities in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Asia-Pacific region, as well as by promoting the establishment of regional centres for space science and technology education.

48. The Committee noted the contributions made by other international organizations towards the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE 82. In particular, the Committee noted that FAO was continuing its activities relating to the remote sensing of renewable natural resources and environmental monitoring, including training courses and support of development projects; ITU was continuing its work on the international coordination of space

communications and providing technical assistance to developing countries; INTELSAT was further developing its system for international satellite communications and broadcasting and providing assistance to developing countries in using the system; INMARSAT was continuing to develop its satellite communications system for maritime, aeronautical and land-mobile communications; and COSPAR, IAF, ILA and ISPRS were continuing to promote international cooperation and exchange of information relating to space activities.

3. Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellites, including, inter alia, applications for developing countries

49. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/67, the Subcommittee had given priority consideration to matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellites.

50. The Committee recognized the importance of continuing international efforts to ensure the continuity, compatibility and complementarity of systems for remote sensing of the Earth and to promote cooperation through regular meetings between satellite operators, ground station operators and users.

51. The Committee recognized the example of international cooperation given by the free distribution of meteorological information. All countries and agencies were urged to continue that practice. Some delegations also urged that similar arrangements should be made for the distribution of other remote-sensing information.

52. Some delegations expressed concern over the commercialization of remote-sensing activities and suggested that the prices of remote-sensing data products and access fees for data reception should be reduced significantly so as to make them affordable for the developing countries and to enable the latter to benefit fully from the use of remote-sensing technology.

53. The Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Subcommittee that, recalling General Assembly resolution 41/65 of 3 December 1986, by which the Assembly had adopted the Principles Relating to Remote Sensing of the Earth from Outer Space, it would continue, at its thirty-first session, its discussion on remote-sensing activities conducted in accordance with those Principles.

54. The Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Subcommittee that the item should be retained on its agenda as a priority item for the next session.

4. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space

55. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/67, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee had reconvened the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space to enable it to resume its work.

56. The Committee noted with satisfaction that, on the basis of many years of work in the Committee and its subcommittees, the General Assembly had adopted a set of Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, as contained in resolution 47/68 of 14 December 1992. The Committee also noted that the Principles provided that they should be reopened for revision by the Committee no later than two years after their adoption.

57. The Committee noted that the Subcommittee had adopted the report of the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space as contained in annex III to the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/543).

58. The Committee took note of the recommendation contained in resolution 47/67 that Member States be invited to report to the Secretary-General on a regular basis with regard to national and international research concerning the safety of nuclear-powered satellites and expressed its appreciation to those Member States that had submitted such information. The Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee that additional studies should be conducted on the problem of the collision of nuclear power sources with space debris and that the Subcommittee should be kept informed of the results of such studies.

59. The Committee noted that working papers on safety aspects of nuclear power sources in space had been submitted to the Subcommittee by the United Kingdom (A/AC.105/C.1/L.187) and the Russian Federation (A/AC.105/C.1/L.188), and that a paper on risks and radiological consequences of debris collisions with nuclear power sources in space (S&T/1993/CRP.2) had been submitted by Pakistan.

60. Noting the need for early review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, the Committee recommended that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee should reconvene the Working Group on nuclear power sources to give further consideration to the question.

61. The Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Subcommittee that it should continue consideration of the item at its next session.

5. Space transportation systems

62. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/67, the Subcommittee had continued consideration of the item relating to space transportation systems and their implications for future activities in space.

63. The Committee took note of the progress being achieved in the various programmes in operation or planned by China, India, Japan, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, the United States and ESA.

64. The Committee took note of developments in low-cost micro-satellite technology and applications that could allow more countries to take an active part in space activities.

65. The Committee stressed the importance of international cooperation in space transportation in order to provide all countries with access to the benefits of space science and technology.

66. The Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Subcommittee to continue consideration of the item at its next session.

6. Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit; examination of its utilization and applications, including, inter alia, in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to space communications developments, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries

67. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/67, the Subcommittee had continued consideration of the item relating to the geostationary orbit.

68. The Committee noted that delegations had reiterated and elaborated on the views concerning the question of the geostationary orbit that had been expressed at earlier sessions and reflected in earlier reports of the Committee and its two subcommittees.

69. The Committee expressed its appreciation to ITU for submitting its thirty-second annual progress report on telecommunications and the peaceful uses of outer space (A/AC.105/549). Some delegations, in their statements, stressed the important technical scope of the work of ITU, while drawing attention to the competence of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in preparing policy decisions that refer to the geostationary orbit.

70. The Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Subcommittee that it should continue consideration of the item at its next session.

7. Matters relating to life sciences, including space medicine; progress in national and international space activities related to the Earth environment, in particular progress in the geosphere-biosphere (global change) programme; matters relating to planetary exploration; matters relating to astronomy

71. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/67, the Subcommittee had continued to consider the items concerning matters relating to life sciences, including space medicine; progress in national and international space activities related to the Earth environment, in particular progress in the geosphere-biosphere (global change) programme; matters relating to planetary exploration; and matters relating to astronomy.

72. The Committee noted with satisfaction the wide variety of space activities being undertaken in these areas and the extensive international cooperation in those activities. The Committee encouraged further cooperation in these areas, and in particular, further efforts to increase the participation of developing countries.

73. The Committee noted with interest the analytical report prepared by the Secretariat on the role that the Committee could play in view of the decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (A/AC.105/547).

74. The Committee agreed that it could make an important contribution in the area of environment and development by promoting international cooperation in the applications of space technologies for environmental monitoring and sustainable development. In particular, the Committee agreed that the Programme on Space Applications could play an important role in assisting developing countries in strengthening their capabilities in related space technologies and applications through its education, training and technical advisory activities.

75. The Committee noted the role of the Commission on Sustainable Development in monitoring progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 2/ and related activities throughout the United Nations system through analysis and evaluation of reports from all relevant organs and programmes of the United Nations system. The Committee also noted the recommendation of the General Assembly that the Commission actively interact with other intergovernmental United Nations bodies dealing with matters related to environment and development. The Committee therefore requested the Secretariat to submit the report to the Commission for its information.

76. The Committee requested the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to review the report at its next session and to consider further how the Committee might best promote the effective use of space technology, on the basis of international cooperation, for environmental monitoring and sustainable development. To assist the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, the Committee requested the Secretariat to provide the Subcommittee with updated information on the implementation of Agenda 21 by the United Nations system, with information on activities of the Programme on Space Applications related to environment and development, and with suggestions as to how the activities of the Programme on Space Applications in this area might be expanded.

77. The Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Subcommittee to continue consideration of the item at its next session.

8. Themes fixed for special attention at the 1993 and 1994 sessions of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

78. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/67, the Subcommittee had considered the theme fixed for special attention at the 1993 session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee: "Space-based communication: the expansion of current services and increased understanding of new systems and the services they will make possible".

79. The Committee noted with satisfaction that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/67, COSPAR and IAF had conducted a symposium on the theme. The Committee expressed its appreciation to COSPAR and IAF for their generous support of the work of the Subcommittee.

80. The Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Subcommittee that the new theme fixed for special attention at the 1994 session of the Subcommittee should be "Space applications for disaster prevention, warning, mitigation and relief". It also endorsed the recommendation of the Subcommittee that COSPAR and IAF, in liaison with Member States, should be invited to arrange a symposium on that theme, with as wide a participation as possible, to be held during the first week of the Subcommittee's session to complement discussions within the Subcommittee on the special theme.

81. The Committee had before it a summary of the scientific and technical presentations made during the thirtieth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (A/AC.105/546).

82. Some delegations, while recognizing the significance of the scientific and technical presentations to the Subcommittee, expressed the view that, as an intergovernmental forum, the Subcommittee should give priority to discussing policies and guidelines for international cooperation in space activities and providing agreed technical parameters for the development of international space law.

9. Space and Earth environment

83. The Committee noted that the General Assembly, in its resolution 47/67, had recommended that more attention should be paid to all aspects related to the protection and the preservation of the outer space environment, especially those potentially affecting the Earth's environment. The 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development had further indicated the need to pay more attention to that issue.

84. The Committee also noted that the General Assembly, in the same resolution, had considered that it was essential that Member States should pay more attention to the problem of collisions of space objects with space debris and other aspects related to space debris and had called for, among other things, the continuation of national research on the question. The General Assembly, in the same resolution, had also considered that space debris could be an appropriate subject for discussion by the Committee in the future.

85. The Committee agreed that there was a need for further research concerning space debris, for the development of improved technology for the monitoring of space debris and for the compilation and dissemination of data on space debris. The Committee also noted the importance of international cooperation in addressing those issues.

86. The Committee agreed that information on national research on space debris should, to the extent possible, be provided to the Subcommittee, in order to allow the Subcommittee to follow that area more closely. In that connection, the Committee took note of the information on national research submitted by Member States (A/AC.105/542 and Add.1 and 2) pursuant to the request of the Secretary-General.

87. The Committee agreed that it should take up the subject of space debris. In this regard, the Committee agreed that under this item the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee would, beginning at its next session, consider scientific research relating to space debris, including relevant studies, mathematical modelling and other analytical work on the characterization of the space debris environment. The Committee therefore recommended that this new item, entitled "Space debris", should be added to the agenda of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee beginning with its next session.

88. The Committee noted the importance of satellite remote sensing for monitoring the Earth's environment, and in particular for studying and monitoring global change.

89. The Committee noted with interest the analytical report prepared by the Secretariat on the role that the Committee could play in view of the decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (A/AC.105/547) and agreed it could make an important contribution to the Committee's future work in this area.

C. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on the work of its thirty-second session (agenda item 6)

90. The Committee took note with appreciation of the report of the Legal Subcommittee on the work of its thirty-second session (A/AC.105/544), which contained the results of its deliberations on the items assigned to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/67.

1. Question of early review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space

91. The Committee noted with satisfaction that, following many years of work, the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space had been adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 47/68 of 14 December 1992.

92. The Committee further noted the recognition by the General Assembly that the set of Principles would require future revision in view of emerging nuclear power applications and of evolving international recommendations on radiological protection, and the provision that the Principles should be reopened for revision by the Committee no later than two years after their adoption.

93. The Committee noted that the Subcommittee, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 47/67 and 47/68, had considered the question of early review and possible revision of the Principles through its Working Group under the chairmanship of Mr. H. Freudenschuss (Austria).

94. The Committee noted the work carried out by the Subcommittee and the Working Group, as reflected in their reports (A/AC.105/544, paras. 24-30, and annex I).

95. The Committee agreed that the Principles should be implemented and that they should be reviewed to consider whether revision was necessary. It was also agreed that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee should consider the need for revision in the light of changing technology before any actual revision should be undertaken by the Legal Subcommittee or the Committee.

96. The Committee recommended that the Legal Subcommittee continue consideration of the item at its next session.

2. Matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and to the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union

97. The Committee noted that the Subcommittee, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/67, had continued to consider this item through its Working Group under the chairmanship of Mr. E. Zawels (Argentina).

98. The Committee noted the work carried out by the Subcommittee and the Working Group, as reflected in their reports (A/AC.105/544, paras. 31-37, and annex II).

99. The Committee noted that a variety of views had been expressed on the question of the definition and delimitation of outer space. Those views were elaborated on and reiterated during the current session of the Committee.

100. Some delegations reiterated the view that a conventionally defined boundary between airspace and outer space was needed and that the Subcommittee should continue to consider the question, with a view to establishing such a boundary. Other delegations reiterated the view that the need for such a definition or delimitation had not yet been established and that attempts to establish prematurely a boundary between airspace and outer space might complicate and impede progress in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space.

101. The Committee noted that a working paper concerning the legal regime for aerospace objects (A/AC.105/C.2/L.189) had been submitted to the Legal Subcommittee by the Russian Federation. The Committee further noted that a draft questionnaire concerning aerospace objects had been discussed by the Working Group on the basis of an informal paper by the Chairman and that suggestions had been made for submitting the questionnaire for comments to Member States, to the International Civil Aviation Organization and to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. The Committee agreed that those documents, among others, could form a suitable basis for future discussions.

102. The Committee took note of the deliberations on the question of the geostationary orbit as contained in the report of the Legal Subcommittee. The Committee noted that an exchange of views had taken place on that subject, particularly on the basis of the ideas formulated in the working paper submitted by Colombia (A/AC.105/C.2/L.192). Some delegations felt that the working paper could provide a valuable basis for further discussions.

103. Some delegations stressed that the geostationary orbit was part of outer space and that its legal status was subject to all provisions of the 1967 Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies [General Assembly resolution 2222 (XXI)] and to the appropriate rules of ITU, which had the status of a treaty.

104. Some delegations reiterated the view that the geostationary orbit, because of its particular characteristics, required a special, sui generis, legal regime to regulate access and utilization by all States, taking into account the needs of developing countries. The view was also expressed that such a legal regime should also take into consideration the particular situation of the equatorial countries.

105. Some delegations reiterated the view that the roles of ITU and of the Subcommittee were complementary and that the Subcommittee could contribute to the establishment of a special legal regime to regulate the use of the geostationary orbit. Other delegations reiterated the view that ITU was the appropriate body to address questions concerning the use of the geostationary orbit and was addressing those questions effectively.

106. The Committee recognized that space debris was a cause for concern in the geostationary orbit as well as in lower orbits.

107. The Committee recommended that the Legal Subcommittee continue consideration of the item at its next session.

3. Consideration of the legal aspects related to the application of the principle that the exploration and utilization of outer space should be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all States, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries

108. The Committee noted that the Subcommittee, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/67, had continued to consider this item through its Working Group under the chairmanship of Mr. R. González (Chile).

109. The Committee noted the constructive work carried out by the Subcommittee and the Working Group, as reflected in their reports (A/AC.105/544, paras. 38-43, and annex III).

110. The Committee took note with satisfaction of the discussion based on working paper A/AC.105/C.2/L.182/Rev.1, as well as of the positive reaction of the co-sponsors to comments made by other delegations, which will be taken duly into account in future discussions.

111. Some delegations expressed the view that it was essential to elaborate legal principles which would ensure that all countries could have access to, and benefit from, outer space activities. They felt that the draft principles on the subject presented by several developing countries in working paper A/AC.105/C.2/L.182/Rev.1 had been carefully drafted to take into account those concerns, as well as the interests of both developed and developing countries. They believed that the debate on the basis of that paper at the last session of the Subcommittee was very interesting, useful and constructive.

112. Some delegations expressed the view that future legal principles relating to the item should address the existing inequalities between the technologically advanced space nations and the developing countries without the infrastructure, resources and technological capability to benefit from space exploration and utilization. They felt that those principles should emphasize the development of indigenous space capabilities, particularly in developing countries, as well as ensuring access to space resources and technology and the widest possible diffusion of the benefits of space activities among the peoples of the world.

113. The Committee recommended that the Legal Subcommittee should continue the consideration of the item at its next session.

D. Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status (agenda item 8)

114. In accordance with paragraph 31 of General Assembly resolution 47/67, the Committee took up the consideration of the above item.

115. The Committee agreed that spin-offs of space technology were yielding substantial benefits in many fields. The Committee noted that spin-offs of space technology were providing new techniques for the field of industrial measurement and control, image and data processing, medical techniques, computer systems, robotics, special materials and chemicals, water treatment and refrigeration.

116. The Committee noted that the importance of spin-off benefits was growing rapidly. The Committee also noted the importance of international cooperation in developing spin-off benefits of space technology and in ensuring that all countries, in particular developing countries, had access to those benefits.

117. The Committee agreed that there was a need to examine ways to strengthen and enhance international cooperation in the field of spin-off benefits of space technology, through, inter alia, improved means of providing access to spin-offs for all countries, giving particular attention to those spin-offs which could address the social and economic needs of developing countries.

118. Some delegations expressed the view that the United Nations could contribute to the development of improved procedures for disseminating spin-off benefits. They felt that the question of spin-offs was linked to the consideration in the Legal Subcommittee of the principle that the exploration and utilization of outer space should be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all States, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries.

119. The Committee recommended that the United Nations Programme on Space Applications consider including in at least one of its training courses, seminars or expert meetings each year the subject of the promotion of spin-off benefits from space.

120. The Committee recommended that it continue its consideration of the item at its next session.

E. Other matters

1. Reports to the Committee

121. The Committee noted with appreciation the participation in its work and that of its Subcommittees by the representatives of FAO, IAEA, ITU, WMO, UNESCO, UNIDO, ESA, INTELSAT, COSPAR, IAF, ILA and ISPRS. The Committee expressed its appreciation to those organizations that had submitted reports on their activities and requested that concerned organizations continue to keep it informed of their activities relating to the peaceful uses of outer space.

122. The Committee recommended that the Secretariat should invite Member States to submit annual reports on their space activities. In addition to information on national and international space programmes, the reports could include information in response to requests from the Working Group of the Whole as well as information on spin-off benefits of space activities and other topics as requested by the Committee and its subsidiary bodies.

2. Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

123. The Committee recalled its recommendation, made during its 1992 session, subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in paragraph 20 of its resolution 47/67, to discuss the possibility of holding a third UNISPACE Conference. Keeping in view the recommendations of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its thirtieth session, that COPUOS should address the question of holding such a conference and discuss the objectives, and goals, and such aspects as organization, venue, timing, and funding implications, the Committee considered in general terms some of the broad issues related to this matter.

124. The Committee requested that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee further discuss the subject of a third UNISPACE conference at its next session with a view to promoting an early conclusion on the matter by the Committee. The Committee noted that the most important step is to define a set of sharply focused objectives for such a Conference. Details such as organization, venue, timing and funding aspects should also be considered. The Committee noted that the goals set for such a Conference might also be achieved through other means, including intensification of work within COPUOS. Finally, the Committee took note of the proposal made by the Government of India, as a developing country, to host a third UNISPACE conference at its Space Centre at Bangalore.

3. Membership and observer status

125. The Committee noted the proposals made by several regional groups concerning the interest of States in membership in the Committee. The Committee agreed that the Chairman of the Committee should continue urgent and intensive consultations with members of the Committee with a view to a consensus

recommendation to be made to the President of the General Assembly in time for adoption by the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

126. The Committee decided to grant, at the request of the organization, permanent observer status to the Association of Space Explorers, on the understanding that, in accordance with the agreement of the Committee at its thirty-third session concerning observer status for non-governmental organizations (A/45/20, para. 137), the Association would apply for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

4. Relocation of the secretariat

127. The Committee noted that in accordance with the decisions of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General, the Office for Outer Space Affairs, with its multisectoral programme of political, legal, technological and technical assistance activities, would be relocated to the United Nations Office at Vienna. The Committee further noted that as part of that restructuring, the Office would be responsible for servicing the Committee, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, the Legal Subcommittee and their subsidiary bodies. It was also informed that the Office would continue to cooperate with the Office of Legal Affairs in fulfilling its extended responsibilities.

128. The Committee agreed that the meetings of the Committee and of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee should be held at Vienna in accordance with the headquarters rule as contained in General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985. As to the Legal Subcommittee, the Committee decided that its thirty-third session would be held at Vienna and that the venue for its subsequent meetings would be reviewed in the light of the 1994 session.

F. Future work

129. The Committee noted the views expressed by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, as contained in paragraphs 109 to 112 of its report (A/AC.105/543), and endorsed the recommendations contained in those paragraphs concerning the agenda of the thirty-first session of the Subcommittee.

130. Regarding the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee, the Committee recommended that the Subcommittee, at its thirty-third session, should:

(a) Continue, through its Working Group, consideration of the question of early review and possible revision of the principles relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space;

(b) Continue, through its Working Group, consideration of matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and to the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of ITU;

(c) Continue, through its Working Group, consideration of the legal aspects related to the application of the principle that the exploration and utilization of outer space should be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all States, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries.

131. The Committee recalled its recommendation that the Legal Subcommittee, on a permanent basis, should rotate each year the order of consideration of substantive agenda items.

132. The Committee took note of the measures that had been adopted at the thirty-first session of the Legal Subcommittee as well as additional measures agreed for the next session of the Subcommittee in order to improve utilization of conference services. The Committee endorsed the agreement of the Subcommittee that a similar organization of work would serve as the basis for organizing the work of the Subcommittee's thirty-third session.

G. Schedule of work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies

133. The Committee indicated the following tentative timetable for 1994:

	Date	Site
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee	21 February-4 March	Vienna
Legal Subcommittee	21 March-8 April	Vienna
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space	6-17 June	Vienna

H. Tribute

134. On the occasion of the resignation of the Rapporteur of the Committee, Mr. Edmundo Sussumu Fujita, to take up other professional engagements, the members of the Committee expressed their gratitude for his service to the Committee.

Notes

1/ Report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Vienna, 9-21 August 1982 (A/CONF.101/10 and Corr.1 and 2).

2/ See Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8), vol. I: Resolutions Adopted by the Conference, resolution I, annex II.

ANNEX

Santiago Declaration

(Adopted by the Second Space Conference of the Americas,
Santiago, 26-30 April 1993)

The Second Space Conference of the Americas,

1. Stresses the relevance of the Conference that reaffirms the interest of all the participating countries in furthering cooperation in the space activities area and affirms the commitment of all the States in the region of Latin America to the exploration and exclusively peaceful use of space activities,

2. Reiterates the importance of continuing the advances in the preparation of rules that will contribute to the development of international space law,

3. Affirms that in order to create the capacity in the Latin American countries in space matters, continuity, coordination and stability in the long term are required in national space programmes and those to be necessarily established in the future,

4. Holds the need for these national programmes and their projects progressively to converge, integrating as appropriate the space activities of the Americas,

5. Emphasizes the need for international cooperation in space matters in an increasingly interdependent world, inviting governmental agencies constructively to participate in support of the space activities of the Americas,

6. Urges national programmes, governmental agencies and international organizations to support and foster action by the scientific and academic groups participating in space projects and activities in the Americas,

7. States also that cooperation projects in space matters should develop and foster the uses of space technology in order to increase the number of beneficiaries in the region,

8. Adopts the creation of a pro-tempore secretariat to follow up and give continuity to the results of the Conference, so as to promote cooperation in space matters among the participating countries, the headquarters of which will be in the host country of the Space Conference of the Americas, and decides that the concerned countries designate focal points for communication with this secretariat,

9. Expresses its interest that the United Nations system, particularly through the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) provide support to follow up the Conference resolutions,

10. Recommends, in this context, that in the decentralization processes of the United Nations system, ECLAC be given the necessary support as well as the appropriate human and financial resources,

11. Decides that the Third Space Conference of the Americas will be held within three years, having a preparatory scientific-technical part, intended to analyse space activities and to evaluate the technical feasibility of projects submitted

by the countries of the region. Said preparatory meeting will recommend priorities and projects to the plenary Conference,

12. Endorses the conclusions and the work of the Conference contained in the report by the rapporteur and the governmental, institutional and individual contributions presented in the commissions, which constitute an important asset for the follow-up of the Conference,

13. Adopts together with its financing commitment by the proposing countries and for their implementation among the concerned countries, the projects submitted with express governmental endorsement, individually detailed in the rapporteur's report.

14. The list of projects mentioned in the preceding paragraph may be enlarged, mainly with those projects to be submitted to the conference through the pro-tempore secretariat in the future.

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